

Message Text

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ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 EA-11 IO-14 ISO-00 DPW-01 ACDA-19

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 /147 W

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R 241532Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6106

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 10204

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, PFOR, ICRC, VN, VS

SUBJECT: ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS

REF: ROME 9867, ROME 8419, STATE 145886

1. RESPONSIBLE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL SHOWED EMBOFF JULY 24
POLICY PAPER RECOMMENDING THAT ITALIANS OPPOSE PRG PARTICIPATION
IN ICRC CONFERENCE ON WEAPONS. FINAL DECISION NOW RESTS WITH
FOREIGN MINISTER MORO WHO NOT EXPECTED TO ACT ON QUESTION UNTIL
AFTER RETURN FROM OFFICIAL VISIT TO USSR ON JULY 29.

2. SOURCE EXPLAINED ITALIAN POSITION BASED ON DESIRE TO AVOID
INTRODUCING POLITICALLY CONTENTIOUS ISSUE INTO PURELY TECHNICAL
CONFERENCE AND IS IN ACCORDANCE WITH REALITIES OF PARIS AGREE-
MENTS REGULATING SITUATION IN VIETNAM. PRIOR TO RECEIVING EMBOFF,
SOURCE HAD MADE THESE POINTS TO NORTH VIETNAMESE AMBASSADOR WHO
HAD CALLED TO URGE POSITIVE ITALIAN REACTION TO PRG PARTICIPATION
IN SUBJECT CONFERENCE.

3. COMMENT. ALTHOUGH WORKING LEVEL POSITION HAS NOW BEEN POSTULATED,
IT IS OF COURSE POSSIBLE THAT FOREIGN MINISTER WILL CHOOSE TO TAKE
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ABSENTSION COURSE RAHTER THAN ACCEPTING RECOMMENDATION OF SUBORDINATES.

FACT THAT SOME OTHER MEMBERS OF EC, INCLUDING FRANCE AND LUXEMBOURG,
HAVE ALREADY DECIDED TO ABSTAIN ON ISSUE, COULD INFLUENCE FINAL
ITALIAN DECISION. VOLPE

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